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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

Item#1

AMERICA’S FUTURE IN SPACE: ALIGNING THE CIVIL SPACE PROGRAM WITH NATIONAL NEEDS. National Research Council. July 7, 2009.

The U.S. civil space program should be aligned with widely acknowledged national challenges, says the report. Aligning the program with pressing issues, environmental, economic, and strategic, is a national imperative, and will continue to grow in importance. Coordination across federal agencies, combined with a competent technical work force, effective infrastructure, and investment in technology and innovation, would lay the foundation for a purposeful, strategic U.S. space program that would serve national interests.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12701 [HTML format with links].

Item#2

THE BEGINNING OF THE END IN IRAQ. Brookings Institute. Bruce Reidel. July 9, 2009.

The Iraqi government has now celebrated the withdrawal of American troops from its cities. The withdrawal of American combat troops from Iraq’s cities is the beginning of the end of this war, or at least the American part of it, according to the report. It also adds that, hopefully, it will mark the end of an era of over-sizing Iraq in American policy. Most Americans long ago came to understand that the war was the wrong battle in the wrong place with the wrong foe. What is perhaps most remarkable, however, is just how little the war contributed, despite that enormous cost, to America’s four key goals in the Middle East.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0709_iraq_riedel.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Mark Davies et al. July 8, 2009.

Poorer developing countries are especially vulnerable to climate change because of their geographic exposure, low incomes and greater reliance on climate sensitive sectors, particularly agriculture. People exposed to the most severe climate-related hazards are often those least able to cope with the associated impacts, due to their limited adaptive capacity. This in turn poses multiple threats to economic growth, wider poverty reduction, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Within this context, there is growing recognition of the potential role of social protection as a response to the multiple risks and short and long-term shocks and stresses associated with climate change.

Full Text:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/25/55/43280946.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages].

Item#4

THE COMING ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOM. Ewing Marion Kaufman Foundation. Dane Stangler. June 2009.

Economists know that entrepreneurship will drive the economy back to health, but many people may be surprised to learn that the baby boom generation is behind the wheel, according to the study. It finds indications that the United States might be on the cusp of an entrepreneurship boom, not in spite of an aging population but because of it. These factors include the shifting age distribution of the country, the continued decline of lifetime employment, the experience and tacit knowledge such employees carry with them, and the effects of the 2008-2009 recession on established sectors of the economy.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedFiles/the-coming-entrepreneurial-boom.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

Item#5

IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Fred Gale and Jean C. Buzby. July 6, 2009.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) increased attention to food imports from China is an indicator of safety concerns as imported food becomes more common in the United States. U.S. food imports from China more than tripled in value between 2001 and 2008. Addressing safety risks

associated with these imports is difficult because of the vast array of products from China, China's weak enforcement of food safety standards, its heavy use of agricultural chemicals, and its considerable environmental pollution.

Full Text:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB52/EIB52.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

Item#6

OIL FROM STONE: SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE. National Center for Policy Analysis. H. Sterling Burnett and Tomas Castell. July 9, 2009.

Rising prices and security concerns raise important questions about America's energy options. Currently, the United States imports 66 percent of its oil, about 4.7 billion barrels per year or 9,000 barrels every minute. However, there are vast amounts of oil shale, a type of rock rich in kerogen, an organic sedimentary material, which can be converted into high-quality liquid fuels. The U.S. Department of Energy (D.O.E.) conservatively estimates oil shale formations in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming contain 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil, more than three times the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyright report].

Full Text:

<http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba664.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#7

PREPARING THE WORKERS OF TODAY FOR THE JOBS OF TOMORROW. Executive Office of the President of The United States. July 13, 2009.

The President's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) presents a projection of potential developments in the U.S. labor market over the next five to ten years and discusses the preparations necessary to develop the 21st century workforce. The report discusses the skills that will likely be most relevant in growing occupations, the value and limitations of our current post-high school education and training systems, and the characteristics of a more effective education and training structure.

Full Text:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Jobs_of_the_Future.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#8

SADDAM HUSSEIN TALKS TO THE FBI: TWENTY INTERVIEWS AND FIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH "HIGH VALUE DETAINEE #1" IN 2004. National Security Archive, George Washington University. July 1, 2009.

FBI special agents carried out 20 formal interviews and at least 5 “casual conversations” with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein after his capture by U.S. troops in December 2003, according to FBI reports released as the result of Freedom of Information Act requests by the National Security Archive. Saddam denied any connections to the “zealot” Osama bin Laden, cited North Korea as his most likely ally in a crunch, and shared President George W. Bush’s hostility towards the “fanatic” Iranian mullahs, according to the FBI records of conversations from February through June 2004 between Saddam and Arabic-speaking agents in his detention cell at Baghdad International Airport.

Full Text:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB279/index.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

TERROR FROM THE RIGHT. Southern Poverty Law Center. July 1, 2009.

The report represents the stories of plots, conspiracies and racist rampages since 1995; plots and violence waged against a democratic America. It includes plans to bomb government buildings, banks, refineries, utilities, clinics, synagogues, mosques, memorials and bridges; to assassinate police officers, judges, politicians, civil rights figures and others; to rob banks, armored cars and other criminals; and to amass illegal machine guns, missiles, explosives and biological and chemical weapons. Each of these plots aimed to make changes in America through the use of political violence. Most contemplated the deaths of large numbers of people, in one case, as many as 30,000, or 10 times the number murdered on Sept. 11, 2001.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://www.splcenter.org/news/item.jsp?aid=383> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

TO WALK THE EARTH IN SAFETY. U.S. Department of State. July 8, 2009.

The report summarizes the accomplishments of the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program, the world’s largest such operation. In 2008, the Department of State provided \$123.1 million in mine clearance and weapons destruction assistance to 35 countries. Among the report’s success stories is Cambodia, where U.S. humanitarian mine action has contributed to a 72 percent decline in explosives-related casualties, a trend which should continue in the coming years.

Full Text:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/125873.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

Item#11

UIGHURS AND CHINA’S XINJIANG REGION. Council on Foreign Relations. Preeti Bhattacharji. July 6, 2009.

As China transforms the economy, politics, and demographics of Xinjiang, Uighurs accuse China of engaging in imperialism.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/16870/uighurs_and_chinas_xinjiang_region.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder [HTML format, various paging].